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Volume II—No. 8 MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT August, 1967

Upland Game Bird Seasons

Basic Regulations

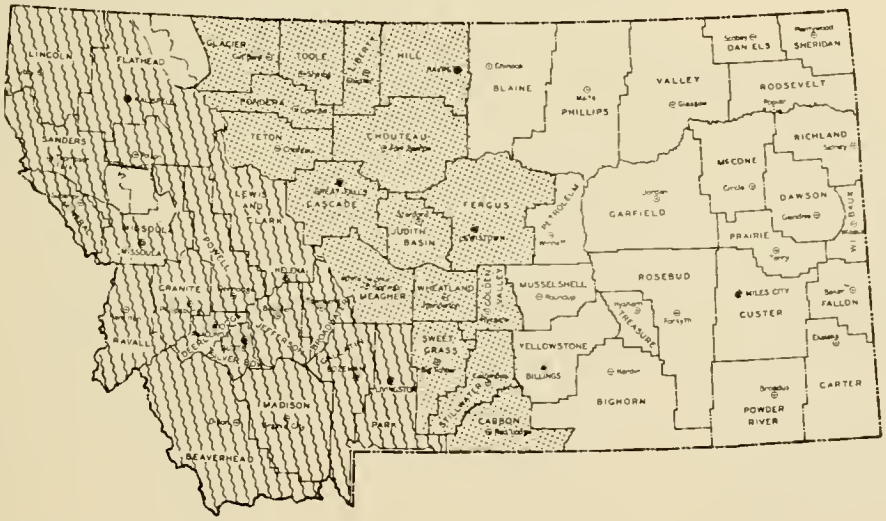
Hunting hours for upland game birds were established at one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excepting for pheasants which will open at noon on the first day only.

Montana residents 65 years or older need not have a license to hunt upland game birds in this state. They will, however, be required to have a federal duck stamp in order to hunt waterfowl and a turkey tag in order to hunt turkeys. There are no other persons exempted from having a license. Persons under 12 may not legally hunt game birds nor other Montana game.

State game preserves and closures and national parks will remain closed to hunting. For hunting privileges on Indian Reservations, hunters should inquire at the local Indian agency.

Field dressed birds should have one wing attached to the carcass for identification and aging.

(BLUE-RUFFED - FRANKLIN GROUSE)



1967
OPEN SEASON

Open Season from Sept. 10 through Nov. 19

Open Season from Sept. 17 through Nov. 19

Daily Limit: Five (5) per person in combination or single species.

Possession Limit: After opening day, the possession limit will be ten (10).

Mountain grouse

(Franklin's, blue, ruffed)

September 10 through Nov. 19: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders and Silver Bow.

Sept. 17 through Nov. 19: Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty, Meagher, Pondera, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole and Wheatland.

Limit: Daily limit (5) grouse per person in combination or single species. Possession limit ten (10) after first day of the season.

Means of taking: A shotgun no larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow, rifle or hand gun.

RUFFED GROUSE

RUFFED GROUSE

The ruffed grouse is probably better known throughout the United States than any other member of the grouse family. It is medium sized and usually weighs less than two pounds.

Color of this grouse varies quite widely among individuals, but the general coloration is a spotted reddish brown above and yellowish barred with dark below. A very conspicuous dark band near the end of the tail, bordered on either edge by a lighter band, aids in identification of this species.

BLUE GROUSE (BELOW)

BLUE GROUSE

Blues are the largest of mountain grouse and among the native upland game birds rank second only to sage grouse in size. The name is in reference to the bluish color of the breast feathers. The color on the back is more like a dark slate. Central tail feathers of females are mottled brown while those of males are nearly black.

FRANKLIN'S GROUSE

Both the males and females of this species average around 17 inches long over all. Their color pattern gives them a sort of spotty appearance. Males are rather black and gray above with white variegnations. Females are more brown and black above and dull white, barred by black on their under-parts.

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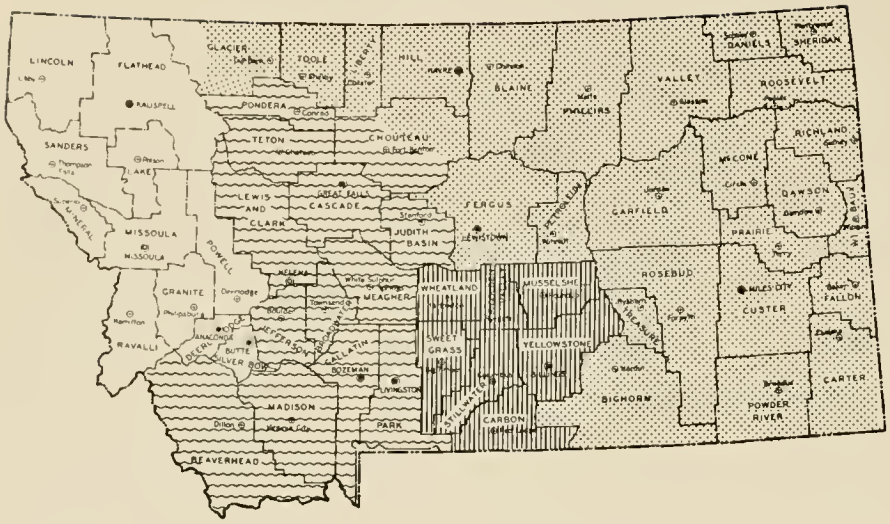
Edited by VERNON CRAIG

BLUE GROUSE (ABOVE)

FRANKLIN'S GROUSE—(LEFT AND ABOVE)

SHARPTAILED GROUSE



1967
OPEN SEASON

Open season from Sept. 17 through Oct. 1

Daily Limit: Three (3) sharp-tailed grouse
Possession Limit: Six (6) after first day

Open season from Sept. 17 through Oct. 15

Daily Limit: Three (3) sharp-tailed grouse
Possession Limit: Six (6) after first day

Open season from Sept. 17 through Oct. 15

Daily Limit: Four (4) sharp-tailed grouse
Possession Limit: Eight (8) after first day

Sharp-tailed grouse

Sept. 17 through Oct. 1: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, all of Chouteau except that portion east and north of the Marias and Missouri Rivers, Gallatin, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera and Teton.

Limit: Daily limit (3) sharp-tailed grouse per person. Possession limit (6) after first day.

Sept. 17 through Oct. 15: Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone.

Limit: Daily limit (3) sharp-tailed grouse per person. Possession limit (6) after first day.

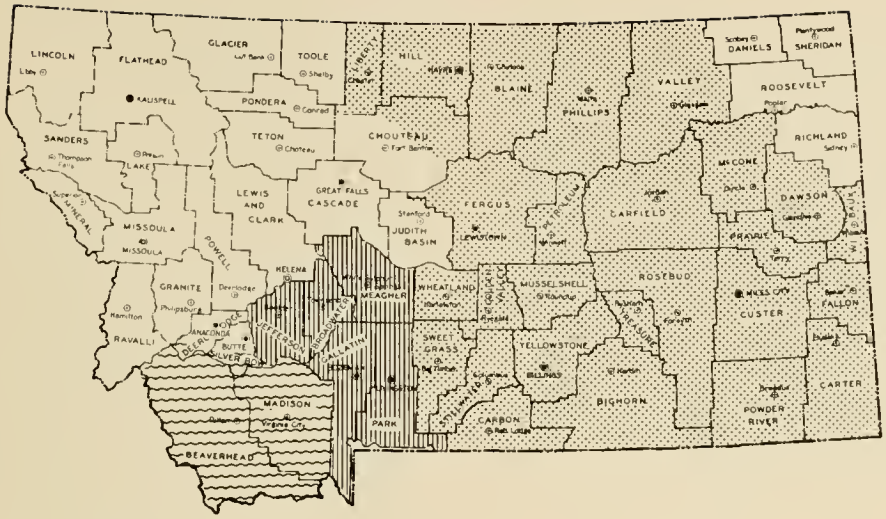
Sept. 17 through Oct. 15: Big Horn, Blaine, Carter, that portion of Chouteau east and north of the Marias and Missouri rivers, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, McCone, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Toole, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux.

Limit: Daily limit (4) sharp-tailed grouse per person. Possession limit (8) after first day of season.

Means of taking: Sharp-tailed grouse may be taken with a shotgun no larger than ten gauge or long bow and arrow.

Sharptailed Grouse (below and right). Note the crest of feathers.

SAGE GROUSE



1967
OPEN SEASON

Open season from Sept. 17 through Sept. 24

Daily Limit: Three (3) sage grouse
Possession Limit: Six (6) after opening day

Open season from Sept. 17 through Oct. 15

Daily Limit: Three (3) sage grouse
Possession Limit: Six (6) after opening day

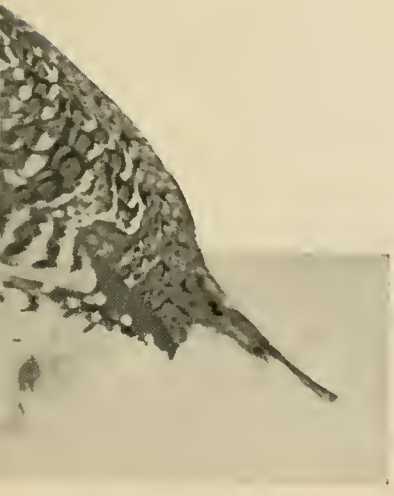
Open season from Sept. 17 through Oct. 15

Daily Limit: Four (4) sage grouse
Possession Limit: Eight (8) after opening day

Sharptails are medium-sized grouse, averaging about 20 inches in length. They are mainly yellowish-brown above, spotted with black. The head is slightly crested with partially erect feathers. The head and neck are deep buff and there are whitish strips behind each eye. Underparts and the throat are whitish.

Sharptails in Montana are locally called "Prairie Chickens," but the true prairie chicken is not known to be in Montana.

Sage grouse, or sagehens as they are often called, are the largest North American members of the grouse family. Large males may weigh from four to seven pounds. The average length of males is around 28 inches overall, while females average around 22 inches.



***Sage Grouse**

Sept. 17 through Oct. 15: Blaine, Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, that portion of Chouteau county north and east of the Marias and Missouri rivers, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, McCone, Liberty, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone.

Limit: Daily limit (4) sage grouse per person. Possession limit (8) after first day of season.

Sept. 17 through Sept. 24: Broadwater, Gallatin, Jefferson, Meagher and Park.

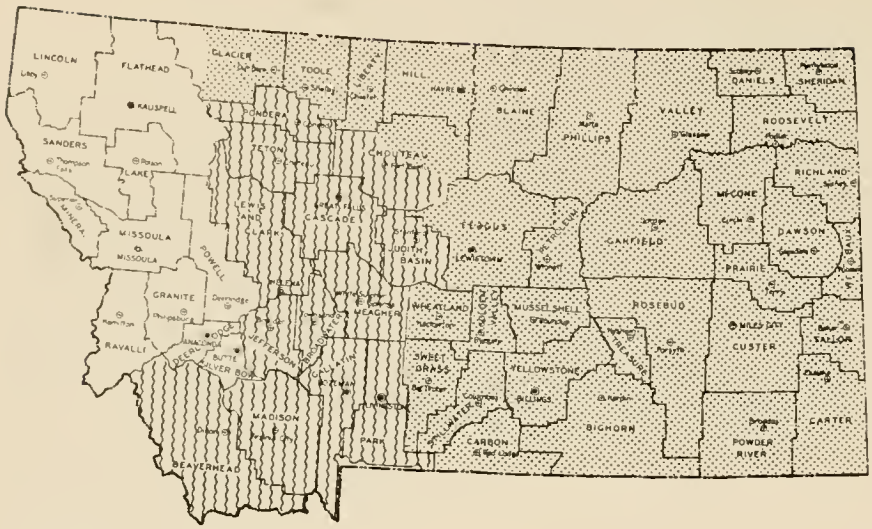
Limit: Daily limit (3) sage grouse per person. Possession limit (6) after first day of season.

Sept. 17 through Oct. 15: Beaverhead and Madison and those portions of Silver Bow and Deer Lodge counties east of the Continental Divide.

Limit: Daily limit (3) sage grouse per person. Possession limit (6) after first day of season.

Means of Taking: Sage grouse may be taken with a shotgun no larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

HUNGARIAN AND CHUKAR PARTRIDGE



1967
OPEN SEASON

Open season from Sept. 17 through Oct. 1

Open season from Sept. 17 through Oct. 15

Daily Limit: An aggregate of six (6) birds

Possession Limit: An aggregate of twelve (12) birds after first day.

Hungarian and chukar partridge

Sept. 17 through Oct. 1: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, all of Chouteau except that portion east and north of the Marias and Missouri rivers, Gallatin, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera and Teton.

Sept. 17 through Oct. 15: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, that portion of Chouteau east and north of the Marias and Missouri Rivers, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Liberty, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone.

Limit: Daily limit (6) partridge person. Possession limit (12) after first day of season.

Means of taking: Partridge may be taken with a shotgun no larger than a ten gauge or long bow and arrow.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE

The little "Hun" is a native of southwestern Asia and of Europe. It is probably the most widespread of all Montana upland game birds. Males and females of this species have much the same appearance, but the female is generally paler in color. Males have a characteristic dark horseshoe-shaped marking on the breast.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE

The original homeland of Chukars is Southern Asia. Although about one hundred chukar releases were made in Montana, the birds have failed to establish themselves only in limited numbers and in but a few localities.

The birds are a little smaller than ruffed grouse and are strikingly, but not brightly colored. Their backs are brownish and the sides gray with black vertical bars. A very prominent black line runs from their foreheads through the eyes, down either side of the neck and joins in the breast area to form a rough V below the white throat. Pink bill, feet, and legs add a finishing touch to their unusual coloration.

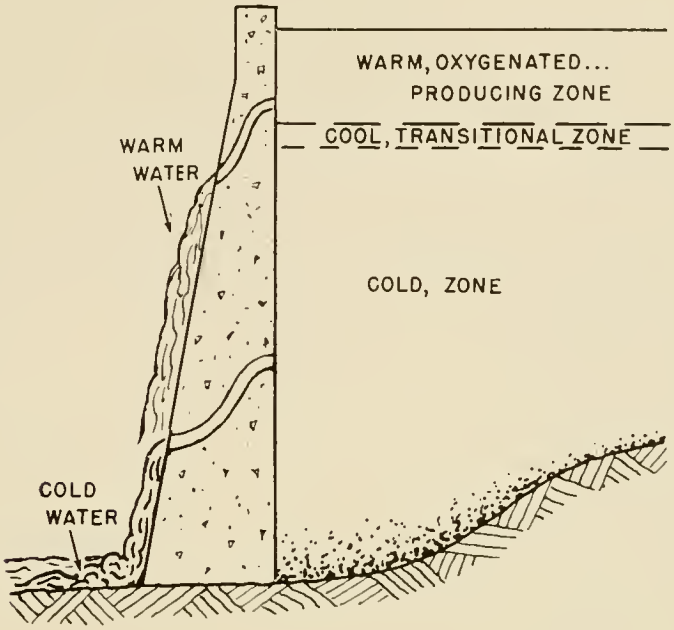
CHUKAR PARTRIDGE

Lakes Like Cakes

By JIM POSEWITZ

The fact that a lake can be in layers like a devil's food cake may seem illogical at first thought, but in the deeper reservoirs this is a common situation. The various water layers are made distinctive by their differences in temperatures, dissolved oxygen content, and often mineral content. Characteristically, during the summer there is a thin warm layer of water at the lake surface, a cold, deep bottom layer and a "transitional" layer sandwiched between the two.

Water taken from one level of a lake will, if the lake is layered, differ from that taken from other levels. Keeping in mind that both water temperature and chemistry affect fish production, should water be drawn off reservoirs from the surface, from the bottom, or from somewhere in between? This is one of the many questions plaguing fisheries workers who have to develop the best possible fishing in Montana's growing number of impoundments.



Deep lake in early summer. Should the water be drawn from the top, bottom, or from someplace in between? It makes a difference.

At one time the answer seemed simple—draw off water of the right temperature to keep rivers below the dams cool enough for trout but still warm enough to insure good growth of fish and the foods that they depend upon. Some research on this subject shows that there are many other considerations. For example, most all life in a lake depends upon algae—simple forms of plant life. Even the higher forms of animals such as fish depend upon the algae because it is through a food chain beginning with algae that the insects and other fish foods are ultimately produced. These plants require nutrients and sunlight. Consequently, only the upper water penetrated by the sunlight is involved in the basic production upon which the entire food chain depends.

A large amount of material produced in a body of water sinks into the deep areas of lakes and reservoirs. There it is mineralized and stored until the spring and fall "turnover," when temperatures play their tricks and cause the lake waters to get thoroughly mixed. Where water flows out from the upper layers of a lake or reservoir, the deeper areas act as nutrient traps, storing temporarily the food-building materials that sink. Where water is drawn from the bottom of a reservoir, this deep, nutrient-rich water is carried from the reservoir. Obviously, its loss makes a reservoir less productive. This flushing of nutrients could well be part of the reason why reservoirs are very productive immediately following impoundment and are generally characterized by poorer production, and consequently poorer fishing as time goes by.

Assume that it's known from which elevations of a reservoir the rich fertile water necessary for fish growth can be drawn. Assume also that it's known from which elevation water of optimum temperatures can be drawn. Can the water be mixed for best possible fish production in the river below the dam? Or should the rich water be held in the reservoir to produce fish there? Where will fishermen benefit the most? Is the total heat budget of the reservoir a valid concern? It is to those worried about water loss through evaporation.

One begins to realize that the numerous problems of reservoir management are complex and much research will be required to answer many questions. Many of the answers will have to come from detailed studies conducted by universities financed by special grants. One such study is beginning on Yellowtail Reservoir in southcentral Montana, and is being conducted by a scientist from Montana State University at Bozeman. Other answers must come from fishery biologists who can observe and equate net effects on reservoir fish populations. Plans for a study of this nature, also on Yellowtail Reservoir, have been made by the Montana Fish and Game Department.

In the maze of questions which reservoir management poses, one thing is becoming obvious—the construction of dams with outlet gates at various levels are essential to uncovering answers and applying solutions to fisheries problems just now being recognized.

Makers of dams in the future must somehow be convinced of the necessity for applying new-found knowledge to the construction of major impoundments.

Ducks Unlimited Names New Montana Chairman

Michael V. Foley, of Great Falls, has been named Montana State Chairman for Ducks Unlimited, Inc., the continent's pioneer waterfowl conservation organization.

Mr. Foley, 49, attended college at Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, Colorado. He has been employed by the Mountain States Telephone Company for 15 years and is currently Directory Sales Manager for that firm.

Mr. Foley takes over the important conservation post from Normand Dahl, Glasgow, who after several years of faithful service for D.U. will continue to serve as Glasgow area D.U. chairman. Foley, an avid outdoorsman, who became an active participant for D.U. under the late Bob Crangle of Butte, will organize the first Ducks Unlimited fund-raising dinner in Great Falls during September.

"Montana has a great many dedicated sportsmen and conservationists who are sure to join the Ducks Unlimited cause when they learn what is being done by D. U. to sustain the migration of waterfowl through the U. S.," Foley said. "Eighty per cent of the continent's ducks and geese nest north of the U. S.-Canadian border. Successful nesting and raising of waterfowl broods depends on adequate water, particularly in the pothole country of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. To offset the tide of agricultural draining and natural droughts, D. U. has constructed and established over 800 projects which contain over 1½ million acres of water in the prime waterfowl nesting areas of Canada. We've done this in 30 years at a cost of less than $10 per acre of controlled water in D. U. 'Duck Factories'!" Foley explained.

Mike Foley, his wife Florence, their daughter, Terri, 16, and sons Pat, 10, and Mike, 12, reside at 1120 Carlos, Great Falls, Montana. Among Foley's immediate objectives is the organization of D. U. chapters in cities and counties throughout Montana.

Nominations For American Motors Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for 1968 American Motors Conservation Awards. The Conservation Awards program, initiated in 1953, honors 20 individuals and two non-profit organizations annually for outstanding efforts in the conservation of the nation's natural resources.

Ten awards, each consisting of $500 and an engraved bronze plaque, are presented to professional conservationists employed by non-profit organizations. Ten non-professionals, whose conservation efforts are a voluntary expression of good citizenship, receive bronze plaques and citations. Awards of $500 each are made to one national and one local non-profit organization in recognition of achievements in special conservation projects.

Nominees should be conservationists whose work is not widely known, rather than those who have received national recognition previously.

Nominations for American Motors Conservation Awards should be submitted before November 30 by letter to:

American Motors Conservation Awards Committee, 14250 Plymouth Road, Detroit, Michigan 48232.

Endorsements or other supporting evidence of achievement may be included with the nominations.

MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

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